

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Eating the dark since 1911.

Wednesday, November 22, 1991

University needs active sexual assault policy

by Kate Stewart

McGill does not have a policy for dealing with cases of sexual assault. And the administration doesn't think McGill needs one.

Dean of Students Irwin Gopnik believes cases of sexual assault can be handled under McGill's existing policy on assault.

"We consider sexual assault to be a part of assault in general," he said. "This has worked in cases we've already dealt with of a sexual nature."

But women on campus disagree. "It is insulting to equate being raped with being punched in the face," says Sylvia Di Iorio, of the McGill Sexual Assault Centre. "McGill's assault policy does not address the trauma and impact of rape."

The Centre is trying to convince McGill to adopt a policy specifically for sexual assault. Di Iorio would also like to see an improvement in the policy for sexual harassment.

When a student files a complaint that she has been sexually harassed at McGill, an assessor is assigned to her case. Four assessors are available to investigate the complaints. They are chosen by the Principal and are approved by a committee of faculty and student representatives.

The assessor acts as a go-between for the complainant and the accused. According to Di Iorio, this can cause problems for the complainant. "A woman must feel she is believed in a case of sexual harassment. But the assessors have to listen to both sides of the story," she said.

When the assessor has heard both sides of the case, he or she makes recommendations to the Principal. If he decides the case warrants disciplinary action it is turned over to a disciplinary committee.

If he does not, the file is closed. Di Iorio would like to see a comprehensive policy which would address sexual assault together with sexual harassment.

McGill is simply not equipped to handle cases of sexual assault, she said. "I've heard of problems in the assessment in cases of assault. The assessors are not prepared to deal with this, nor do they have a guideline to follow."

As it stands now, the assessors do not take cases of sexual assault. They are supposed to advise the complainant to lodge a criminal complaint with the police.

The Sexual Assault Centre plans to suggest a new system for dealing with sexual assault to the Dean of Students. Said Di Iorio, "There

should be two systems set up with a separate representative for the complainant and the harasser."

But Di Iorio was not optimistic. "This system would mean hiring trained people to handle the cases, and I don't know if McGill is willing to do that."

Dean Gopnik claimed that the university will examine the Centre's proposals. "If someone comes up with an argument in favour of having a separate assault policy the administration will listen. We're not closed-minded about it."

If McGill set up a policy specifically for cases of sexual assault

women would have a choice between pursuing a case within the university and a criminal case.

"It is never easy to go the criminal route. If we had an effective system, a woman might choose it over the criminal proceeding," Di Iorio said.

Given the choice between going through the process of filing a complaint within the university and going to the police, Di Iorio said she would go to the police.

"The procedure at McGill being what it is, I don't think it is the best way to go. The decisions are left in the hands of one person in the end,"

she said.

Kelly Dobbins, of the Coalition Against Sexual Assault, agreed. If McGill had a sexual assault policy, she said, "then at least we would have choices."

But even if McGill created a policy, Dobbins had doubts about its potential effectiveness. "It would still come down to his word against hers. And the final decision would probably be left to one man."

CAASHE is holding a conference on sexual harassment at the Grand Hotel from November 20 to 23. There will be an afternoon for students. Tickets are \$10 each.

The right to bare breasts

by Clive Thompson

TORONTO (CUP)—A Guelph University woman arrested for going topless is challenging the charge in court. She is arguing that Canada's indecency laws are discriminatory.

Gwen Jacob, who was to appear in court on Friday, was charged with

two counts of indecency for appearing shirtless in Guelph on the 17 and 18 of last July.

"The cop was telling me that my genitals were exposed," Jacob said. "I told him my genitals were quite comfortably covered. Then he arrested me."

She said the charge violates her equality guaranteed under the Ca-

nadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"It's the only thing I can think of where men and women can be doing the same thing and the women can be arrested."

Jacob said she wasn't wearing a shirt because it was too hot. A man and a woman complained to the police and she was subsequently arrested.

Last week a judge in Rochester, New York overturned the 1989 convictions of ten women found guilty of exposing their breasts in public, ruling that women's breasts are the same as men's.

Jacob said this sets an important precedent for her case, but others are not so sure it will do her much good.

Queen's University professor Gayle MacDonald, a sociologist who specializes in the Charter and sex equality rights, said although she agrees with Jacob's argument, sexism in the legal system may work against her.

"I think she's going to have a difficult time arguing the case, because she's working against a legal system that doesn't protect women," Jacob said.

"It doesn't give us protection from sexual assault, or for equal pay, so I don't think it'll be much different here."

The legal system is often more lenient on male flashers than women who expose their breasts, she added.

"I had people flashing me when I was going to university and that was never taken seriously."

MUC police harass woman

by Katerina Cizek

A McGill student is filing a complaint against two Montréal police officers for unprofessional behaviour.

The two officers were responding to the student's report last Friday night concerning an incident of sexual harassment in the Union Building women's washroom.

"The cops victimized the victim," the student said. "They harassed me, demeaned me. They did their damnest to talk me out of filing a report."

The student said she entered the washroom in the Union basement and found the first stall locked. She then entered the next stall. A few moments later she looked up and saw a man looking down at her, she said.

"I yelled at him to get out," she said. She immediately left the washroom, and summoned a SCOTT's security guard.

The security guards found him still in the stall and detained him while they waited for the police to arrive.

"He was calm. He knew nothing would happen to him," the student said.

"When the police arrived, they

claimed they were busy men, and didn't have time for such trivial matters," she said. "They ignored him, and asked me what I was doing in the washroom. When I refused to respond, they asked if I had been pissing."

The police refused to press charges against the man.

But an anonymous police source told the *Daily* the police could have charged him with "mischief: the wilful obstruction or interruption of... the use of property."

"They tried to stop her from filing a report," Neal Rayner, one of the security guards, said. "But she pushed firmly."

Oddly enough, the officers asked her to file the police report in the *Daily* office.

The *Daily* overheard Alain Marion, one of the officers, say "What that guy needs is a punch in the face."

The Chief of Police at Station 25 refused to comment on "a case against police behaviour."

The student described the man as caucasian, light brown, 5'4, with glasses. The police told her only that his first name is "Tady," he is 21 years old, and he attends Concordia University.



Demanding equal rights to go topless.

STAFF MEETING
TODAY AT 17H00
SLASH - SLASH - SLASH

CRAFT FAIR
SPECIAL DISPLAY ON CHILD GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Wednesday, November 20, 1991
10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Union Ballroom, University Centre
3480 McTavish

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO MUCH NEEDED RENOVATIONS TO THE DAYCARE ENVIRONMENT

MCGILL DAYCARE

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Special consideration given to McGill students & staff

Special "Communities" Issue
On-Campus from Dec. 2nd
MCGILL DAILY FINAL ISSUE FOR 1991 - 92
ADVERTISING DEADLINE: NOV. 26



**McGill University
Work Study
Program**

The Student Aid Office is pleased to announce the introduction of a Work Study Program for the winter 1992 semester. It is designed to provide on-campus employment to full-time degree students who demonstrate financial need. Eligible employers will benefit from subsidized labour costs when Work Study students are hired for projects.

Work Study Student Applications are available at the Student Career & Placement Service and the Student Aid Office at both campuses. Student Applications should be returned to the Student Aid Office by **December 6, 1991**

Privacy laws shelter abuse

by Susan Vivian

Canadian privacy laws are used to subordinate women, said retired supreme court judge Bertha Wilson in a speech at McGill last Thursday.

Privacy laws protect the family from state intervention. But Wilson suggested they also help perpetuate domestic violence and abuse.

"Protection from state intervention [in issues of abuse] enforces unrestrained patriarchal authority," Wilson said. "If this is part of family privacy, then the sanctity of the home has little to offer women and children."

Wilson said reality for Canadian women is reflected in statistics showing one tenth of the women in Canada are battered by male partners; one quarter will be sexually assaulted during their lifetime, probably by an acquaintance; and one quarter of Canadian children will be physically or sexually abused in the home.

"Women's equality in and outside of the family poses complex issues incapable of a single solution," Wilson said. "Privacy laws need to be reconsidered to see if they make sense in the context of women's reality."

Wilson suggested turning to the decisions of the European Convention on Human Rights for ideas on reforming privacy laws.

"The Convention has shown that the infusion of private law with women's reality has resulted in a different conception of [privacy]," she said.

Wilson said the current Canadian legal system has a masculine perspective because it was created almost entirely by men.

Wilson is well known for the important Lavallée case, in which the Canadian supreme court acquitted a woman of murdering her husband.

The woman shot her husband in the back of the head because she felt her life was in immediate danger. She was charged with first degree murder by a provincial court of appeal.

In a Supreme Court ruling overturning that decision, Wilson ruled

that the shooting was done in self-defence. Lavallée was acquitted in decision.

The decision was a radically new interpretation and application of the idea of self-defence.

"Self-defence was designed to embody male experience with violence and male valuation thereof. The experience of women put a new perspective on it — that of a battered woman."

Q-PIRG to set up info-bank

Banking on your lease

by Mark Antaki

In an effort to collect more leases for its newly-created lease bank, the Québec Public Interest Research Group (Q-PIRG) at McGill wants to pay your rent.

If Q-PIRG collects 200 photocopied leases by December 4th, it will pay a month's rent to one contest entrant, provided the awarded rent is not greater than \$300.

"200 leases is just a start," said Québec-PIRG member **Daron Westman**, "it takes thousands of leases for a lease bank to be effective."

A lease bank allows tenants to legally contest unfair rent increases by taking advantage of a little-known aspect of Québec rental law.

Legally, building owners must inform new tenants of the rent paid by previous tenants. By maintaining a bank of photocopied leases, new tenants can consult old leases before charging the building owner with an undue rent hike. Without a copy of the previous lease, a tenant does not have suitable evidence to present to the provincial housing authority, La Régie de Logement.

Q-PIRG member **Chrisoula Roumeliotis** said a lease bank is of particular importance to the student population. Because of the high turn-over in student neighbourhoods, rents are frequently increased more than what is permissible by the Régie.

"If student housing is to be kept

affordable, students must start challenging unfair rent increases," she said.

The lease bank was created last year by the Q-PIRG housing project group.

Copies of your lease (front and back) can be left at the Info Kiosk in the Union Building. Entrants should circle their name on the photocopy. A maximum of one lease per apartment will be accepted.

Lease

Gouvernement du Québec
Régie du logement

LEASE

Between the **landlord** and the **tenant**

The landlord: _____ The tenant: _____

Description of premises
By this lease the landlord rents to the tenant the premises located at _____

Use of premises
The premises will be used as a dwelling.

Term
The term of the lease will be of _____ months, from the _____ day of _____ 19____ to the _____ day of _____ 19____.

Rent
The total amount of the rent will be _____ dollars (\$ _____) which the tenant will pay the landlord in equal _____ payments, weekly or other, _____ and consecutive payments of _____ dollars (\$ _____) each of which will be paid on the _____ day of each _____ month.

Additional clauses
Include here any additional clause which may be agreed upon by the parties, for instance: repairs, maintenance, painting, snow removal, janitor service, heating, description of the premises and of the furniture, etc.)

To signify our agreement, we have signed at _____ this _____ day of _____ 19____. Landlord: _____

The parties agree that the lease should be drawn up in _____ English _____

ERRATA

We seem to have made a few errors... Ooops...

Lebanon vox populi

In Tuesday's *Daily Francais*, an opinion piece provided by the McGill Lebanese Students' Association was altered from its original form. The piece, in its submitted form, read "Lebanon is still occupied by Syrian, Israeli, Iranian and Palestinian troops," instead of "Lebanon is still occupied by Syrian, Iranian and Palestinian troops, and has a demilitarized zone as a border with Israel." as was mistakenly printed.

Tenant's Story

In the an article Monday entitled "Ghetto tenants fight superintendent", several factual errors were made. Cam Ringland was slapped in the side of the head by Gaetan Luchman, not punched. The stated "eviction notice" served to the women was, in fact, a warning of eviction notice. A quote attributed to a woman who wished to remain anonymous was taken out of context. The quote gave the impression she had first-hand experience of being served croissants by Luchman, when in fact the woman had only informed the *Daily* of the incident.

We're Sorry

The *Daily* seriously regrets all these errors. Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa...

Don't call us

By Dani Colt

McGill administrators say emergency phones and improved lighting could solve campus security problems. But women on campus say the university is over-relying on hardware instead of directly addressing sexual assault.

Members of campus women's groups were particularly critical of five new emergency phones installed across campus.

"The phones are an unmitigated disaster," said Kelly Gallagher-Mackay of the Coalition Against Sexual Assault. "They are often in places more dangerous than the surrounding areas they provide security for."

"No one can even find the phones," agreed Sarah Shaw, another Coalition member.

Associate Dean of Students, Lynn Butler-Kisber, said the administration is "working on making the phones' locales better known." She said a guide that lists the locations of emergency phones is widely distributed on campus and students are told about the phones during orientation.

However, Gallagher-Mackay said women feeling threatened on campus should dial 911 from a public pay phone rather than use the university's red emergency phones.

"It's free to call 911 from any pay phone," she said. "There are also far more pay phones than emergency phones."

Coalition members tested the response time of the red emergency phones and found it took twenty minutes for security to respond. It takes an average of only three or four minutes for police to respond to a 911 call, Gallagher-Mackay said.

Coalition members say the phones are indicative of McGill's lack of an effective policy against campus sexual assault.

"McGill is very far behind other universities concerning campus safety," said Shaw. "All we have now is the (student-run) Walk Safe Network."

Shaw said the main problem is funding. "Relative to other universities, McGill is given nothing with which to finance programs."

But Butler-Kisber said campus security personnel are able to deal with any potential problem that could arise. "Security is available to be called in if there is a problem of any kind," she said.

Butler-Kisber said McGill is willing to help out students with the security problem, but students have not come forward with specific cases. "We'll respond to whatever we can, but there have not been any reports of campus assaults," she said.

But Shaw said the university's inappropriate policies discourage women from coming forward with complaint.

"The policies and politics of this university are not conducive to women speaking out," said Shaw. She said a key problem with the university's attitude is its refusal of sexual assault cases from anonymous sources.

"The Dean of Students has said that he will not consider (anonymous reports) legitimate," said Gallagher-Mackay. She said the university's approach is unfair to women who feel uncomfortable reporting details of their assault.

Gallagher-Mackay also criticized the university's policy against publicizing assaults occurring on campus or in adjacent neighbour-

hoods.

"Students need a way of reporting assaults," said Shaw "so that records can be made. If we don't have them, it makes it easier for university officials to say that there's no problem."

McGill officials are reluctant to become involved in cases of sexual assault unless a case with clear-cut evidence is brought forward, she said.

"The Dean of Students has said he has a distinctly non-interventionist approach," said Gallagher-Mackay. "He waits for students to come up to him with reports on assaults."

"He said that it'd be crazy, for example, to read every assault story in the *Daily* and follow that up," she said. "He said students would object to this unwarranted interference in their lives"

Dean Gopnick said Gallagher-Mackay's accusations were taken out of context.

"It would be naive to assume that I was referring to individual topics," said Gopnick. "Those statements represent a pastiche of other things that I tried to say to another context."

"Given that 87 per cent of all assaults happen by a person that the woman knows, there really isn't anywhere that is safe or unsafe," said Kelly Gallagher-Mackay. However, here are some of her suggestions about the location of high risk areas on campus:

-Always be on the lookout for mobility. You should be able to find an alternate route at any given time.

-The tunnels should always be avoided as you can be physically contained there.

-The bathrooms in the basement of the Leacock building should also be avoided as you cannot be heard screaming down there.

-Avoid areas that have low lighting, shrubbery, and are isolated.

-Do not take shortcuts behind buildings alone, even in the daytime.

Students should make it clear that safety is a first priority by using the Walk Safe Network, supporting the upcoming referendum for the Drive Safe program, and not walking anywhere alone at night.

Although the red emergency phones are not recommended for crisis situations by the Coalition, for your information the locations are as follows.

The Strathcona Anatomy Building at the west entrance.

The Leacock Building at the south-east lower campus entrance McIntyre Medical Building at the guard hut near the receiving dock east of the building

The McConnell Engineering Building at the main north entrance

The Education Building at the North entrance by Peel and McTavish.

When the phone box is opened and the receiver taken off the hook, the location is automatically indicated to a dispatcher at the Physical Plant building. The Dispatcher should call the police and send over the nearest guard.

- Michael Rottmayer

U.S.A. NEWS BRIEFS

Fuck the FBI

FBI agents have asked library employees to monitor and report the reading practices of foreign-appearing patrons. When 266 librarians wrote letters protesting the program on First Amendment grounds, the FBI ran background checks on those who protested. The FBI ran checks because it believed the librarians were acting under Soviet influence and wanted evidence to confirm the suspicion.

The background checks backfired when they became public causing further bureau embarrassment. As a result of the experience, the American Library Association has strongly condemned the FBI program.

Condom maker accused of prejudice

Carter-Wallace, manufacturer of Trojan condoms, is being accused

of homophobia because of its long-standing refusal to advertise in gay publications, despite gay men being more likely to buy condoms than straight men.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has organized a letter-writing campaign to protest what it calls the company's "prophylactic prejudice."

Although by no means unique in its



fear of Trojan being labelled "a gay product," Carter-Wallace is being targeted by GLAAD because it has the largest market shares of condom sales and has gone on record about ignoring its gay market.

Ronald Reagan resurrected

Ronald Reagan spoke about the wonderful continent of America at the recent opening of the Reagan Library. "I've always believed God put this great continent of America here between two oceans with nobody on it so it could be populated by people from all over the world."

Hopefully there are some books on Native American history in this new library, which we can recommend to Mr Reagan.

-New Liberation News Service and PeaceNet



CAMPUS IN BRIEF

McGill Profs get small raise

Members of McGill's academic staff will receive only a small cost of living increase in their salaries this year, and they will receive no merit pay increases.

Bill 149, passed by the Québec government in the spring, allows only a 3 per cent cost of living increase for public sector workers. The government did not provide any money for merit pay increases.

The actual cost of living increase in the Montréal area between January 1990 and January 1991 was 8.2 per cent.

"It's part of a Canada-wide program to reduce government obligations," said Carmen Miller, head of the McGill Association of University Teachers (MAUT).

"We hope it will only be for this year," said Miller, who foresees longterm difficulties with the plan.

"What kind of university do you want to have? If you're going to hire good young people, you have to offer them good salaries and working conditions."

MAUT has accepted the plan, but Miller says it has problems. "The market has held up for other parts of the university; it should hold up as far as salaries are concerned," he said.

The most interesting part of the plan is that the lowest salary will have the same dollar amount added to it as the highest salary. This means the largest percentage increases will be at the low end of the salary range.

Miller thought the plan was the fairest way to distribute the small increase. "We feel very strongly that the lowest paid would be the hardest hit."

MAUT's efforts won a 1.5 per cent increase in December, another 1.5 per cent increase next December, retroactive to this year, and a 0.78 per cent increase now, retroactive to last year.

The 0.78 per cent increase represents the difference between last year's raise and the actual increase in the cost of living.

THE MCGILL DAILY

COMMENT

We want more than little red phones

Several cases of sexual assault and sexual harassment have occurred around McGill lately and not a peep from the administration or the powers that be.

It's about time McGill reacted to the fact that women are not safe on this campus, or anywhere for that matter. Reacting to campus cases of sexual assault would be a good start.

What exactly are McGill administrators doing about the cases that have already been referred to them? Nothing much that we can see.

So far, the university seems content with installing red "emergency" phones, increasing lighting, trimming some shrubbery, and its four security patrols. The administration has the resources to do a lot more.

Roy Dalebozik, the man responsible for campus security at McGill, recently told us no sexual assaults have been reported this year on campus, and that Montréal police have taken care of the cases which happened near the campus.

The one thing McGill can do, he said, is clarify the campus's boundaries so the university knows exactly which sexual assaults it's responsible for.

But McGill's approach is hypocritical. When the university does come across a case of sexual assault or harassment, it strongly encourages students to keep it within the campus and not go to police, to prevent embarrassment.

If the administration really gives a shit about sexual assault, it would implement special training for security guards to handle cases of sexual assault. And how about hiring some women for the foot patrol positions?

And, Roy, could you answer us why it takes an average 20 minutes for a security guard to trot his way across such a tiny campus in response to a call on one of those "emergency" phones?

For that matter, the university might show where it stands on sexual assault by finally implementing a comprehensive policy on sexual assault. Can anyone remember how long we've waited already?

The policy should be drawn up in concert with campus women's groups and should include:

- a procedure to publicize all reports of sexual assault, including a physical description of the assailants;
- provide subsidised self-defense courses for women and men;
- a way for students to report sexual assaults anonymously.

Having some security guard ask an assailant for their ID card isn't quite enough.

The university has a tendency to wait for something to happen before taking action. McGill's lack of a sexual assault policy reflects this.

We need a policy designed for prevention of sexual assault. If prevention is ignored, the sexual assault policy will be as ineffective as McGill's policy on sexual harassment.

Kristen Hutchinson

Dani Colt

Alex Roslin

Kate Stewart

Peter Clibbon

LETTER

Redman name denies legitimacy

To the Daily:

In response to James Jordan's letter, "Redmen Real Winners" that appeared in The Daily on 18 November:

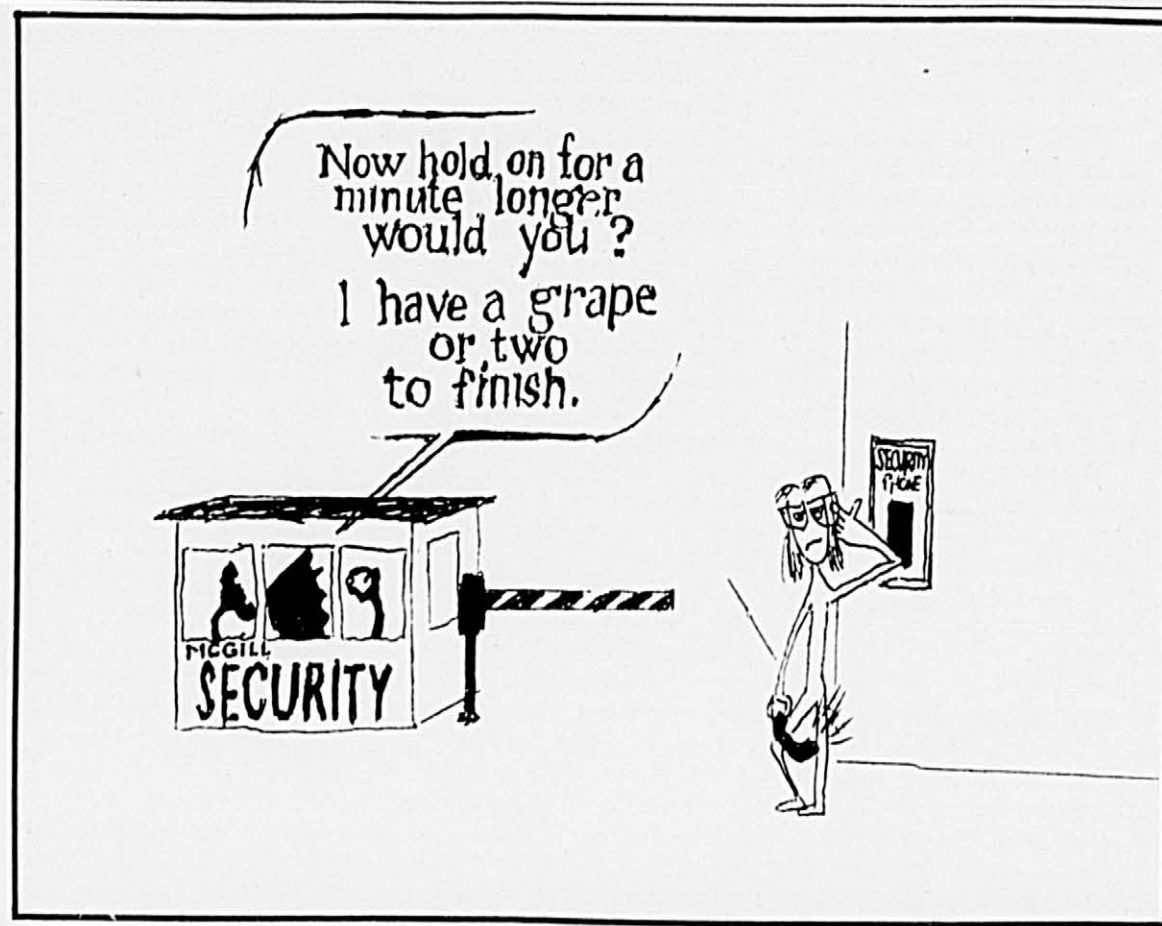
Thanks to the media, people are finally becoming aware of the derogatory names of many sports teams. For instance, an astounding number of people to whom I have spoken did not understand the harm of a team being called The Cleveland Indians.

Let me provide an analogy for this name and logo: imagine that this team was called The Cleveland Negroes and their logo depicted a smiling cartoon rendition of an Afro-American. How many people would consider that offensive? Many other team names

reduce an entire group of culturally diverse people to a one dimensional image of aggressive warriors. This portrayal denies the legitimacy and depth of various native American cultures.

And, Mr. Jordan, you cannot draw an analogy between the Canucks, who were consciously named by people to describe themselves, and a name such as the Redmen. This name was given to a group by another to suit the latter group's purpose.

I would like to ask Mr. Jordan if, just because he has been personally ignorant of attempts in the past 25 years to rid popular culture of offensive stereotypes, this means that others should not take actions to correct them today? The unfortunate fact remains that without



LETTERS

media exposure, people such as Native Americans would not have any voice in shaping society.

I do not understand the problem Mr. Jordan has with this use of media, since he himself does not seem to mind utilizing the press to his own advantage.

Leigh Valliere
U3 History

Library tips from Winnipeg

To the Daily:

Oooo, I've been waiting for this issue to pop up. I was ecstatic when I read Todd Wilkinson's letter to The Daily, commenting on those annoying little library due-date print-outs. But, then, I was crestfallen when I read Renée Chialut's reply in defence of the present library circulation system. I'm inclined to think Ms. Chialut missed the point of Mr. Wilkinson's letter.

I don't presume to speak for Mr. Wilkinson, but the solution really is simple: continue to beep books into the computer records, but instead of giving us print-outs of the due date, just use those nifty rubber stamps on those old-fashioned due-date slips glued to the inside cover of the books. Perhaps this is not as 'efficient' as simply tearing slips of paper out of the computer printer, but I imagine it could still be pretty quick and painless, and certainly would be more economical.

This was, incidentally, the procedure that the University of Winnipeg library used the last time I was there. We Winnipeggers tend to be rather simple-minded, but if it works...

Peter Mah
Medicine 1

Magic Act on Arsenio

To the Daily:

re: Kate Stewart and Doug

McDonald's comment of November 14, 1991.

I saw the Arsenio Hall Show which was referred to in your comment on Magic Johnson and HIV. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe that Johnson was responding to a question posed by Hall when he said: "I'm far from being homosexual — you know that." First of all, I don't think Johnson "insisted" (as you wrote) that he wasn't gay, he stated it matter-of-factly. Second, he did not say, "don't accuse me of being gay; don't think that I'm one of them." — you did. He said: "I'm far from being homosexual — you know that."

I understood this as meaning "I'm not gay, I'm straight." It is my opinion that Johnson was not homophobic — neither by what he said nor how it was said.

On the Arsenio Hall Show, Johnson effectively conveyed a simple message that no one has been able to do before — that heterosexuals can contract the HIV virus. Within 15 minutes of air time, Johnson opened the eyes of a lot of North Americans. Must you blame him for their blindness.

Magic Johnson is not the American government. He is not responsible for lack of funding and education. He is not a gay man and should not be expected to be a spokesperson for them.

It is obnoxious of you to assume that you know what Johnson thinks and knows. How do you know how much of the "true history of AIDS" he knows? Or how much he has actually contributed to the fighting of this disease? Who do you think you are to stand in judgement of a person you obviously know little about.

Instead of wishing Johnson had said things the way you would have said them, why not look at the good that will come from his actions? I understand

that you needed a vehicle with which to drive home the announcement of STD awareness week at McGill, but you didn't have to make Earvin Johnson (a real person with a real disease) your scapegoat.

I sincerely believe that attempting to monitor and dissect other people's words (and thoughts) will ultimately leave you frustrated. Magic Johnson is facing this virus with positivity and dignity — why can't you?

Jeffrey Silverstone
U2 Arts

Get a life

To the Daily:

The comment by your editors concerning Magic Johnson was a de facto accusation that all heterosexuals are homophobic. You warped Magic Johnson's quote, "I am not a homosexual, you know that," to make it sound like he was homophobic. It is remarkable that even a tabloid such as the McGill Daily can find homophobia in a statement such as this.

Since when is asserting one's sexuality as a heterosexual homophobic? Obviously in the minds of two of your editors, stating one's sexuality to be something other than that of a homosexual makes one a homophobe.

Well we are heterosexuals and proud of it. How often do you hear that said? Are you trying to push heterosexuals such as Magic Johnson into the closet? By finding homophobia everywhere, your overzealous hippocratic reporting restricts accurate representation of the news. Get a life!

Josh Abiscott
U2 Physiology
Ngana-Andrew Mziray
U2 Economics

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DAILY PHOTO: PETER CLIBBON



Interview by Kate Stewart and Peter Clibbon

Shashi Röder has practiced as a family therapist for fifteen years and is now a graduate student in Philosophy at McGill. She was instrumental in bringing about changes to the paternity act in British Columbia. Röder was also an Assistant Director of a community home in England and a leading force behind the use of Gestalt therapy. She is an artist and a gallery-owner.

Is sexual harassment common on the university campus? It's more common than most people suspect, and more common than in many other settings. The academic environment is turning students and faculty into excellent technicians and navel-gazers with a myopic cultural view and an ideology which perpetuates violent behavior. For faculty members there is an overkill of emphasis on academic performance and a race for the chair of the department. There is little or no emphasis on character, integrity or respect.

What is sexual harassment and what motivates the harasser? Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual attention. If a woman says no and her harasser asks again, this is a violation. People don't know this. Often they only take incidents of rape seriously. Sexual harassment is not just a sexual act. It is an expression of domination. It is a struggle

for power by the aggressor which could be based on his view of gender, race, culture or class. The harasser asserts his power over the aggressed because he feels threatened. He may feel that his victim is superior to him in some way. He is reacting to his own feelings of inadequacy. Self-image is what we're talking about. It is quite common for a harasser to use his physical dominance over his victim. To violate her body and her psyche is the only way he can out-do her. What happens to a woman when she reports a sexual assault at McGill? She could encounter a psychological and academic backlash once she reports the assault. Professors have enormous power. When this power is questioned in any manner, it's interpreted as a threat. The backlash could include the manipulation of the student's grades, ostracism

and ridicule in her department. There is also pressure by the university administration not to go to the police. The university wants to protect its image. It will make promises to the harassed, but there is nothing to ensure they

are fulfilled. There is pressure to keep the information within the "McGill family." This would not be a bad thing, if the person harassed would be appropriately represented and duly compensated within the McGill system. But this is not so. What effect does this have on the harassed? Some women feel real shame after the crime has been reported and made public because of the lack of sympathy and understanding from friends and family. This is the reason so many women do not go public with their experience. In a trial, the burden of evidence lies on the harassed. To relate the incident effectively, the victim has to re-experience the sensations of the assault. This can be very painful and do a great deal of

trained consultant at the university who can try and resolve the situation. Perhaps the harasser could repent or apologize and seek psychiatric treatment.

There is too much emphasis on punishment and legal proceedings with very little attention to how much damage all of this causes to the harassed. It is another form of harassment for the woman to have to go in front of other individuals and be asked very personal questions about sex.

Hiring more women professors would also help. There would be more pressure within the departments not to sexually harass students.

How does the repeal of the rape shield law contribute to this pattern?

I am amazed that the argument against the rape shield laws exist. They are indicative of how little society understands the nature of harassment, assault and rape. It is absolutely ridiculous that the burden of proof should lie on the victim. The seduction on the part of the woman is irrelevant. The harasser

McGill to help the harassed? We have hardly scratched the surface. I think the strategies we are using to cut down harassment are not philosophically sound. They reveal a lack of understanding of the mindset of the harasser. Taking the harasser to court is only a small step in changing the way we look at harassment.

We have to reassess our society's values, especially in a university. Our workloads are very heavy. Professors are under a lot of pressure and so are students. It seems that universities have been turned into factories.

There is very little learning done as to how do we become decent human beings, how do we make our society humane. I know this sounds like a long way around the problem, but usually the long way around is the most effective and shorter in the long run.

How do we transmit this sort of information to society as a whole?

We should make use of the media, conferences, research and journals. We have to ask questions which are rigorous and confrontational. Unless we ask the difficult questions we're not going to get anywhere.

It's frustrating to see that one of the questions which never gets addressed is what is the standing of a woman after she has made a complaint.

The harasser is not in a vacuum. There are going to be peers around him. How are they going to handle it? Have we prepared the peers for this? Is the harasser going to be tabooed by his peers, or are they going to say "it could have happened to me" and take the side of the harasser?

Why is it so easy to excuse the harasser?

We have all kinds of myths surrounding sexual harassment. We think sexually harassment only occurs when a very horrible man harasses a naïve girl, or somewhere. But harassment happens to the best of women, by men least expected to be capable of such an act.

In a university setting, the power relations are disturbed if a complaint is made against one of its employees — the applecart is upset.

How we begin to change the deep-held attitudes that bring about sexual assault?

By unraveling what motivates the aggressor, what aggression is and how our social system gives rise to assault. We need more ethics courses and policies that reward good ethical behavior. Gender and cultural respect and equality must be taught. We need to make it difficult for a student to succeed with only technical merit.

Is it not realistic to keep on living with sexual aggression. If we are saying that to try and emphasize an ethical environment is too idealistic, we are resigning ourselves to living with sexual harassment. To do that proves there is something wrong with our value system.

SHASHI RÖDER

-UPSETTING THE APPLE CART-

damage to the victim if the listeners are callous and sceptical.

If a harasser decides to appeal a woman's allegations, it can be in some cases an indication that he wants to continue harassing her. There is the hope she might back down in the immense stress involved in the trial. In this way, he can recoup his losses.

What could McGill do to help the harassed after she reports the crime?

It is very important that there be a

should be in control of his own reflexivity. Especially an assault involving a professor, it is imperative that we understand that it is part of his professional conduct that he would have that control. If he lacks it, he shouldn't be in that position. I can't see how any woman would try to hurt a man through laying such a serious complaint. There are other ways for her to hurt him which are much less painful for her and much more effective.

What do you think of efforts at

Bombing Iraq into the stone-age:

Bush charged with crimes against humanity

by Leif R. Montin
and Jon O'Brien

Iraq lies in ruin, and the embargo is choking the last life from it. Three hundred thousand Iraqi children will die this year as a result of the destruction of the country. Food and medicine bought before the embargo have not been allowed in.

"Can we possibly keep silent as a thousand Iraqi children die each day," asked Gabrielle Gemma, who spent three weeks in Iraq in April. Gemma is a member of the Commission of Inquiry of the International War Crimes Tribunal, which met in Montreal last weekend. The Tribunal is charging U.S. president George Bush with crimes against humanity.

"It was not a war, it was a massacre." René Dumont, an eyewitness to the war in Iraq, was the first to speak at the Tribunal.

The Tribunal is charging Bush, Colin Powell, Norman Schwarzkopf and other U.S. officials with 19 war crimes. They include crimes against humanity, crimes against peace and violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

In addition, Tribunal members charge that the war contravened the Geneva Protocol on Human Rights. Article 52 of Section I of the protocol guarantees "general protection of civilian objects."

The Tribunal has heard evidence in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Turkey and Belgium. By the end of next month the Tribunal will have visited more than 50 cities on five continents. The findings of the hearings will eventually be presented to the United Nations and the International Court of Justice in early spring.

The U.S.-led war against Iraq started last January 16, and lasted 42 days. The war followed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

U.S. forces flew over 110 000 air sorties during the war, indiscriminately bombarding homes, factories, food depots and hospitals — all structures that sup-

port day to day civilian existence.

Dumont spent a month in Iraq in September as part of a United Nations team of observers.

"The war served two purposes," Dumont testified during the Tribunal hearings. "To kill Iraqis and to destroy the infrastructure of the country."

Among the many civilian structures reduced to rubble, Dumont visited the infamous baby milk plant in Baghdad. U.S. bombers destroyed the plant during the war, claiming it manufactured chemicals for weapons.

But Dumont was allowed to wander through the rubble without any restrictions, and he saw no evidence that the plant was used for chemical weapons.

He also visited a centre for the nation-wide distribution of agricultural goods 18 km northwest of Baghdad, which was completely destroyed. Iraq imports most of its food, producing only 30 per cent of its total requirements.

"The carpet bombing in Iraq was worse than in Cambodia," Paul Roberts, a journalist who covered the U.S. war in Cambodia in the early 1970s, told the Tribunal.

Roberts, an award-winning BBC documentary maker and Oxford professor, was the only Western writer to travel in Iraq during the conflict. He spent several weeks travelling with Bedouins and Kurds, assessing the on-going damage. Roberts recently wrote a report

about the damage in Iraq for *Saturday Night* magazine.

"The bomb blasts hit me in the chest and knocked the wind out of me. The bombing of Cambodia, by comparison, was a war on a human scale. What I saw in Iraq was a massacre, carried out by a technical

As a part of the psychological warfare, Roberts said, the bombings nearly always started in the early evening and continued until morning. The schedule was so regular that infants began wailing every evening at that time, anticipating the air raids.

A week before the bombing ended, The Red Crescent Society of Jordan estimated 113 000 Iraqi civilians had been killed. Sixty per cent were children.

In Babylon, an Italian-built textile weaving plant employing 2400 women was destroyed, killing two women, Roberts said.

Altogether 26 000 facilities were destroyed, including 80 per cent of the oil refineries, according to reports distributed at the Tribunal.

People like Roberts are coming forward because they are upset with the contradiction between the official myth of "bloodless surgical strikes" and what they themselves experienced on the ground.

"When I reached Istanbul and watched CNN, I saw that what was being presented was not what was going on at all."

Another witness, at the Tribunal was Charlotte Paquet. Paquet went on the U.N. trip to Iraq with Dumont to study conditions in Iraq after the war.

Paquet said the far-reaching future effects of the bombing had "destroyed a nation and ensured its subservience to the U.S." Local Iraqis told her "conditions on the front were better than those in Baghdad."

"War is not supposed to be an attack on the population of a country," she said.

Paquet condemned the continuing embargo of Iraq. The coalition of countries arrayed against Iraq cannot support the 18 million war victims in Iraq with foreign aid, nor is the coalition likely to do so in the future, she said.

Today, 90 per cent of the Iraqi population is unemployed and food and resources of all kinds are scarce, Paquet said. Turkey has refused to deliver 32 000 tons of milk that had been purchased prior to the war, or

Continued on page 8



Tribunal participants review 19 charges of war crimes against U.S. officials.

DAILY PHOTO: LAUREL HUGHES

juggernaut. These people had no chance of protecting themselves or of defending themselves."

He said that he had witnessed widespread destruction of civilian facilities — warehouses, schools, and entire industrial suburbs flattened by B-52 carpet bombing. Consistently, it was non-military facilities that were destroyed, including passenger and cargo lanes, aqueducts, markets and telephone exchanges.

During his stay in Iraq, Roberts survived three waves of night bombing in the area of Baghdad. "The disorientating effect of the bombing is a form of psychological warfare," he said. "When you've been kept up 10 nights in a row, you begin to lose your sense of reality."

Every morning the wounded were carried outside where they awaited ambulances, Roberts said. But the ambulances never came.

"There were no doctors," said Roberts. "Saddam had sent them to the front."

Roberts emphasized the targeting of civilians and of infrastructure as a fundamental goal of the war. As almost all facilities in Iraq were constructed by foreign companies that were part of the U.S.-led coalition, the Pentagon had access to information about the exact locations of various buildings. There was no excuse for hitting so many buildings that weren't used for military purposes, he said.

Roberts described a child he had seen "with his stomach ripped open", and another who had lost a leg from the bombing.

A Premeditated War?

by Jon O'Brien
and Leif R. Montin

Mounting evidence suggests the U.S.-led war against Iraq last year was "retaliatory" war, planned months in advance of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Actions by U.S. and its allies in the region during the years before the conflict suggest Washington wanted to draw Iraq into a war. The Americans planned to destroy Iraq's high level of economic development and reduce the country to subservient levels, according to evidence presented at a recent war-crimes tribunal.

In 1988, Kuwait began flooding the world oil market with its oil, pushing down the international price of oil. Kuwait, a close ally of the U.S., started producing 65 per cent more oil than it was allowed by its OPEC quota. Iraq, another oil-dependent country, was furious.

Kuwait also used slant drilling to extract

\$2.4 billion worth of oil from Iraqi territory at the Rumaliah oil field, which straddles the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

Around the same time, Kuwait also demanded the immediate repayment of the billions of dollars it had loaned Iraq during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

The evidence suggests the Kuwaiti provocations were coordinated with the American CIA. Top-level Kuwaiti and American security officials reportedly met in 1988 in the U.S. to discuss the campaign against Iraq.

Then in late July, 1990, the American ambassador to Baghdad met with Iraqi president Saddam Hussein to discuss oil prices and Iraqi frustration at reaching an amicable settlement with Kuwait.

Thousands of Iraqi soldiers were massed on the border with Kuwait at the time.

In response to questions about Iraq's intentions vis-à-vis Kuwait, the Iraqi president

said that he planned to meet with the Kuwaitis in two days. He said the meeting was the final chance for a peaceful settlement. The Iraqi president said he "could not accept the death of Iraq."

The American ambassador said in return that the U.S. had "no opinion" about conflicts between Arab countries, and that the "Kuwait issue is not associated with America."

Four days later, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Many observers later said the American response to Iraq amounted to a green light for it to invade its tiny neighbour.

The Iraqi move gave the U.S. a pretext to do what it had wanted to all along — move its military might into the Gulf and crush Iraq. Iraq was, according to many American critics, becoming rather too independent of its former American ally.

Iraq was also using its vast oil revenues to develop its economy along independent lines, instead of squandering it like Kuwait and

Saudi Arabia.

Other evidence that the U.S. manipulated Iraq from the outset has surfaced as well. In the spring of 1990 the U.S. cut off loans to Iraq for food deliveries of rice, corn, and wheat purchased exclusively from the U.S., causing extreme shortages and torpedoing relations between the formerly close allies.

In July, 1990, U.S. general Norman Schwarzkopf and his staff ran computerized war games simulating a conflict in the region, pitting about 100 000 U.S. troops against Iraqi armored divisions. Schwarzkopf was the commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf war.

Only a few months after the war games, Schwarzkopf referred to a new military plan for fighting a war in the Gulf, devised in 1989. After the war, last spring, Schwarzkopf publicly referred to "18 months of planning for the campaign". The military build-up in the Gulf itself occurred over a period of five months.

CLASSIFIEDS

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McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person - WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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EVENTS

Unlearning Racism. Lesbian and lesbian-positive women are invited to gather for discussions, films, readings, etc. Concordia's Women's Centre, 2020 MacKay, 20h. Info: 848-7431.

Blacks Students' Network meets today. "Another Black man murdered by MUC. Could you be next?" and Africana Studies at McGill to

be discussed. Multicultural Lounge, Union 4th floor, 18h. Info: 398-6815

McGill Outing Club and Québec-PIRG host a lecture by Entomology prof. Stuart Hill — "Developing an Environmental Conscience". Leacock 26, 20h. Info: 398-6817.

McGill Volunteer Bureau holds its fourth annual food drive, until December 20th. "We're hungry for volunteers," so they say. Info: 398-6819.

McGill Film Society presents "Mon Oncle Antoine." Leacock 132, 19h30. FREE

"The Politics of Malcolm X and the Black Liberation Movement." A discussion hosted by the International Socialists, 19h30, Union 425. Info: 525-5586.

McGill Student Pugwash hosts a discussion with William Langley on Development activities

in Northern Guatemala, Burnside 305, 19h. FREE
Comedy with a cause at the Comedy Nest for Montréal's Social Justice Committee, 20h30. Tickets are \$10 and can be obtained from the SJC's offices: 1857 De Maisonneuve W. Info: 933-6797.

...War crimes

Continued from page 6

to pay for 100 million barrels of oil. "The country needs to rebuild itself, to stop the dying, and we won't allow them to stop their own suffering with the current embargo," Paquet said.

Coercion and propaganda

American reliance on Middle East oil increased from 5 per cent in 1973 to 10 per cent in 1989, according to reports distributed at the Tribunal.

The CIA estimates that by the year 2000 one-quarter of all American oil will come from the region. Japan and Germany import even more of their oil from the region — over 90 per cent of their total oil consumptions.

The U.S. used this dependency to coerce Germany and Japan into supporting the war. When the U.S. first asked Japan for money to pay for the war, the Japanese offered to put up \$1 billion.

But the U.S. repeatedly threatened to target Japanese imports with punitive restrictions if it didn't contribute more. Eventually, Japan pledged \$12 billion.

Canada is not guiltless, either. Illegal weapons were used in the conflict, including napalm and fuel air explosions. U.S. and Canadian bombers attacked Iraqi military personnel and civilians fleeing Kuwait on February 25 using napalm and FAEs.

Roberts said that one flatbed truck was later found which contained nine bodies. The occupants' hair and clothes were burned off, and their skin was incinerated by heat so intense it melted the windshield onto the dashboard.

Research on fuel air explosions was conducted by professors in McGill's faculty of Engineering in the mid-1980s.

Zuhair Kashmiri, senior editor at Toronto's *Now* weekly, also criticized Canada at the Tribunal for its comportment during the war. He recently authored *The Gulf Within*, a book about how Canadian police services targeted Arabs during the war for security investigations.

"The Arab population of Canada was pinpointed as being terroristic and evil, creating a wave of resentment against them," he said. "This kind of government-sponsored racism mobilized popular support of the war."

Kashmiri also said the government and media collaborated on a propaganda campaign to convince the Canadian public that the war was a positive thing. Voices of dissent and the Arab community were marginalized, he said.

Prior to the propaganda campaign, 57 per cent of Canadians opposed the war. But soon after it started, she said, polls found that a majority of Canadians supported it.

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